



January 25, 2017

KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-17-24

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2017 Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

Purpose: Provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ogallala Aquifer Initiative (OAI)

Expiration Date: September 30, 2017

Background

The OAI is designed through EQIP to provide producers with financial and technical assistance to reduce the quantity of water removed from the Ogallala Aquifer using conservation practices on cropland.

Priority Areas

The priority areas for the OAI were created by combining the Groundwater Management Districts' (GMD) Quick Response Areas and the Kansas Water Office (KWO) priority 1 declining groundwater areas as seen in Attachment 1.

Only applications having a point of diversion within the priority areas will be considered eligible for this initiative. All other applications outside of the OAI priority area will be considered ineligible for this initiative.

Only irrigated land meeting the requirement of having been irrigated a minimum of two of the last five years is eligible for the OAI. All land not meeting this requirement is ineligible.

Contracts developed under OAI must include at least one of the applicable core CPs, or must be completing a conservation system that supports core CPs that are documented as already applied on the land under contract.

Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and Conservation Practices (CPs)

The eligible land uses, resource concerns, and CPs are available in Attachment 2.

Additional Requirements

All applications must achieve an annual water savings of 10 percent from the benchmarked water use by the end of the contract.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S

All applications under this ranking category must meet or exceed the minimum use guideline of 66 percent. This is calculated by 5 year average benchmarked irrigated acres divided by water right authorized acres. The application acres must also have been irrigated at an average rate of at least eight-acre inches/acre/year for the 5 year average benchmark irrigated acres.

ProTracts Ranking Tool

ProTracts fund code for this EQIP initiative is “Kansas OAI.” A copy of the state and local ranking questions are provided in Attachment 3. The ProTracts cost list is “KScountynameEQIP2017-01-EQIP.” The Toolkit cost list is “KS17_EQIP.”

National ranking questions are consistent for all EQIP applications; however, only questions 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4d, 4c, 8a, 8b, and 9a apply to the OAI. All other national questions will be answered “No.” Refer to bulletin KS300-17-8, Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Ranking Process–National Priorities, for additional guidance on answering national questions.

All eligible applications shall be entered into the Conservation Programs Geographic Information System Interface (CPGI). All answers available on the CPGI report will be used to answer the corresponding question on the ProTracts Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT). The application identification number in CPGI will match the application identification number from ProTracts.

Contact: Please forward questions through established channels to Joel A. Willhoft, Resource Conservationist, at (785) 625-2588 ext. 103 or by email to joel.willhoft@ks.usda.gov.

(signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments